



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barrie’s top innovators celebrated at annual Mayor’s Innovation Awards ceremony

(Barrie, ON) – The winners of the 2021 Mayor’s Innovation Awards were announced this evening via a virtual ceremony that premiered on the City’s social media channels, and the nominees, runners-up and winners were celebrated at a private viewing party of the ceremony at the Sandbox Centre. The Innovation Awards is an annual initiative recognizing and honouring the year’s most innovative solutions from Barrie businesses, individuals and community groups.

“Navigating the changing landscape of COVID-19 has presented extraordinary challenges over the past two years, and we want to acknowledge the businesses, individuals, and organizations whose innovative approaches and sheer determination have contributed to a resilient foundation for Barrie,” said Deputy Mayor Barry Ward. “I’m honoured to celebrate the nominees, runners-up and winners tonight, who continue to inspire those around them, including myself.”

The winners and runners-up of the 2021 Mayor’s Innovation Awards, by category are:

Creative Collaboration

- Theatre by the Bay and Tourism Barrie (co-winners)
- UPlift Black and the Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre (first runners-up)
- Talk is Free Theatre (second runner-up)

Pivot Point

- Black Controls Company Inc. (winner)
- Ask for Directions Training (first runner-up)
- Baker Studios (second runner-up)

Community Impact

- Michael Agema of AGEMA Work (winner)
- Ryan’s Hope (first runner-up)
- YMCA of Simcoe-Muskoka (second runner-up)

Shift Disturber

- Marcia Woods of FreshSpoke (winner)
- Nikki Glahn of Barrie Families Unite (first runner-up)
- Brotech Precision CNC (second runner-up)

The City received more than 40 submissions, and submissions were evaluated by 15 judges from various industries and business backgrounds on criteria like creativity, innovation and the nominee’s wider contributions to Barrie’s development. The Innovation Awards are sponsored in part by consulting firm Adams Hamilton, Grant Thornton, and Meridian Business Banking.

Learn more about the winners, runners-up, nominees and Awards at investbarrie.ca/innovationawards.

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